Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 17, with the following amended paragraph:

The fluorinated surfactant that can be used to prepare the micro-emulsion is a perfluorinated alkane sulphonic or carboxylic acid or salt thereof typically having between 4 and 15 carbon atoms, preferably 8 carbon atoms. Preferably, the fluorinated surfactant corresponds to the formula:

$$(Y\text{-}R_f\text{-}Z)_n\text{-}M \qquad (I)$$

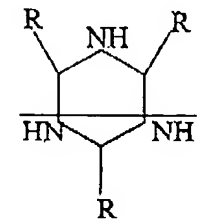
wherein Y represents Cl or F; R_f represents a linear or branched perfluorinated alkylene having 3 to 15 carbon atoms, preferably 4 to 10 carbon atoms; Z represents COO^- or SO_3^-; M represents a cation including monovalent and multivalent cations, and n corresponds to the valence of M. Examples of cations include ammonium, alkali metal cations such as sodium, potassium and lithium and earth alkaline metal cations such as calcium or magnesium.

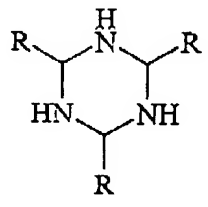
Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 5, with the following amended paragraph:

Specific examples of perfluorinated hydrocarbons include perfluoro-2-butyltetrahydrofuran, perfluorodecalin, perfluoromethyldecalin, perfluoromethylcyclohexane, perfluoro(1,3-dimethylcyclohexane), perfluorodimethyldecahydronaphthalene, ~~perfluorofluoorene~~ perfluorofluorene, perfluoro(tetradecahydrophenanthrene), perfluorotetracosane, perfluorokerosenes, octafluoronaphthalene, oligomers of poly(chlorotrifluoroethylene), perfluoro(trialkylamine) such as perfluoro(tripropylamine), perfluoro(tributylamine), or perfluoro(tripentylamine), and octafluorotoluene, hexafluorobenzene, and commercial fluorinated solvents, such as Fluorinert FC-75, FC-72, FC-84, FC-77, FC-40, FC-43, FC-70, FC 5312 or FZ 348 all produced by 3M Company. It will further be clear to one skilled in the art that a mixture of perfluorinated hydrocarbons can be used to prepare the micro-emulsion. A suitable inert liquid and highly fluorinated hydrocarbon compound is $C_3F_7\text{-}O\text{-}CF(CF_3)\text{-}CF_2\text{-}O\text{-}CHF\text{-}CF_3$.

Pleasc replace the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 4, with the following amended paragraph:

Also useful as ammonia-generating compounds are substituted and unsubstituted triazine derivatives such as those of the formula:





wherein R is a hydrogen or a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, aryl, or aralkyl group having from 1 to about 20 carbon atoms. Specific useful triazine derivatives include hexahydro-1,3,5-*s*-triazine and acetaldehyde ammonia trimer. Ammonia-generating compounds when used to effect curing of a fluoropolymer having nitrile groups, are typically used in an amount of 0.1 to 10 parts per hundred parts by weight (phr) of the fluoropolymer to cure the fluoropolymer to an elastomer having desired physical and mechanical properties.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 19, line 18, with the following amended paragraph:

To cure the nitrile containing fluoropolymers still further compounds that can be used, include amino phenols (U.S. 5,677,389), ammonia salts (U.S. 5,565,512), amidoxines (U.S. 5,668,221) and other ammonia generating compounds (PCT 00/09603) or imidates.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 21, line 21, with the following amended paragraph:

40 g of CF_2=CF-O-$(CF_2)_5$CN (NVE) and 410 g of a 30% ammonium[[-]] perfluorooctanoate solution (FX 1006, 3M) containing 1.5 % by weight based on the weight of ammonium perfluorooctanoate of a mixture of perfluorinated hydrocarbon compounds having

from 5 to 15 carbon atoms available from 3M Company as FZ 348 was heated up to 50°C under slight agitation. The mixture (pH=4) formed a transparent micro emulsion, stable at room temperature.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 23, line 10, with the following amended paragraph:

40 g NVE and 390 g of a 30% by weight solution of highly purified ammonium perfluoro[[-]]octanoate was gently agitated at room temperature until a clear, transparent micro-emulsion was obtained. The micro-emulsion was adjusted to pH=4. The polymerization as described in example 1 was repeated using instead of the micro-emulsion described in example 1, the micro-emulsion prepared as described in this example 3. The fluoropolymer so obtained was then compounded and cured as described in the above examples. The resulting cured perfluoropolymer did not show any shiny wet looking surface and had an amount of extractables of 3.3% (measured as described in above examples).